



Baa, baa, it's back to 4-H

Youngsters from 4-H clubs statewide and Future Farmers of America chapters are getting ready for their meet June 24-25 at the Ellsworth Center on the Brigham Young University campus. The deadline is June 3 for entries in horse, beef, sheep, swine and dairy goats divisions at the 1988 Livestock Expo and Exhibitors Classic.

6-1-88

Sheep ranchers protest plan to reintroduce wolves

11-23-88

POCATELLO (AP) — Reintroducing gray wolves in the Northern Rockies may be an admirable environmental goal, but Idaho sheep ranchers say it could make them an endangered species.

"We're fighting for our survival," Dick Egbert, a Teton sheep rancher, said during a panel discussion at the Idaho Wool Growers Convention in Pocatello.

Egbert said only a few large sheep operations remain in Idaho, and there will be even fewer if wolves are allowed to take over the nation's public lands.

But Pat Tucker, a representative of the National Wildlife Federation from Missoula, Mont., argued that few ranchers will ever have a wolf on their property, much less one that kills their stock.

She said wolf depredation continues to be "grossly exaggerated" by ranchers, and that the grain eaten by ducks each year creates a far greater economic loss than the livestock lost to wolves.

Conservationists have been fighting for reintroduction of the wolf in Yellowstone National Park, central Idaho's wilderness areas and Glacier National Park in Montana since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adopted a recovery plan in 1987.

The plan calls for establishment of 10 breeding pairs of the endangered Rocky Mountain gray wolf in each of the three areas. Political opposition has put that plan on hold.

"From our standpoint wolves aren't our problem; it's the impact they will have on existing predator control programs," said Jeff Siddoway, president of the Idaho Wool Growers Association.

Tucker argued, however, that wolves are a healthy part of a natural ecosystem, and conservationists are only fighting to protect the few remaining wilderness areas that can sustain wolf populations.

"If we don't have those (natural) areas, we're going to lose part of our heritage," she said. "Just like if we don't have sheep ranchers, we're going to lose part of our heritage."

Sheep ranchers can't shoot grizzlies, court rules

10 Oct 1988

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — Sheep ranchers have no constitutional right to shoot grizzly bears they suspect have killed their sheep, a federal appeals court ruled recently in a Montana case.

The Montana ranchers contended the government had, in effect, turned the bears into "government agents" by protecting them as a "threatened" species, who in turn took the ranchers' property.

The ranchers, including Richard Christy, claimed a right to protect their property from immediate destruction by federally protected wildlife.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected their claims.

The three judges ruled Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel was within his authority to limit controlled hunting of grizzly bears in certain wilderness regions of Montana to 25 bears a year.

"The Endangered Species Act makes no mention . . . of the right to kill a member of a threatened species in defense of property," wrote Judge Arthur Alarcon.

Christy, who owned 1,700 head of

sheep that grazed on land leased from the Blackfeet Indian tribe near Glacier National Park in 1982, was fined \$2,500 for killing a grizzly.

He shot the bear after bears killed approximately 20 sheep he estimated were worth \$1,200.

Christy took his sheep off the land after losing about 84 of them to bears during the period of the lease, according to the court.

Christy, Thomas Guthrie and Ira Perkins asked that U.S. District Judge Paul Hatfield in Great Falls issue a permanent injunction pre-

venting the government from enforcing the grizzly bear regulations against them.

Hatfield refused.

The government rejected proposals for live-trapping and transplanting of bears as too dangerous and too expensive, based on Fish and Wildlife Service information and data from governors of five states, including Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado.

Hodel did determine that limited sport hunting and selected killing of not more than 25 bears a year in the Bob Marshall wilderness area could lower the threat to livestock.

able is at the factory and is available.

Beck said that new Commissioner Sid Sandberg has agreed to handle the situation.

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The sheep wear "coats" to keep their wool clean.

Mohair untrumpeted resource from Texas

By MARY MARTIN
NIEPOLD 4/2/89

One of America's lesser-known natural resources roams, for the most part, in southwestern Texas. It is there that most of that state's 1,800,000 angora goats are raised. The angora goat produces mohair — that long, lustrous hair, which, in the fashion world, is being woven and knit into more and more fashions.

"We've been seeing a renewed interest in natural fibers," explains Madeline Dad-

diego, director of promotions for The Mohair Council of America. "And with texture being so important in fashion, mohair lends itself to those boucle and brushed looks."

Currently, mohair fashions may be found in collections by big-gun designers such as Bill Blass, Linda Allard for Ellen Tracy, Mary Jane Marcasiano, Pamela Morris, Jhane Barnes, Pauline Trigere and Helen Sidel. As fashion silhouettes are reduced to slimmer proportions,

(See MOHAIR, Page B2)

Utah's half-million sheep are yielding fleeces

By Bruce Jennings
Deseret News correspondent

4/9/89

MANTI — The first of the two annual harvests, spring and fall, that mark the sheepman's life is now in full swing. Utah's half-million sheep are losing their winter coats.

Soon after the shearing, the ewes will be dropping their lambs. Those lambs will come off the summer grazing allotments next fall weighing around 90 pounds, if forage conditions are good, and be shipped to the feed lots and the meat counters.

The lambs are the sheepman's second harvest.

Unlike a half-century ago, when the herds were trailed in from the winter range on Utah's deserts, the ewes are usually trucked in now to their owners' corrals, sheds and lambing grounds.

It's a critical period for the industry, because cold, wet weather can cause heavy losses of the newborn lambs and even sometimes of the ewes that have lost their fleeces if a storm is very severe.



PHOTOGRAPHY / BRUCE JENNINGS

These newly shorn sheep are no doubt feeling lighter — and cooler — without winter coats.

Helping the spring harvest along now are the mobile shearing outfits that travel to places like Wah Wah, Antelope Valley, Flat Canyon and Christianburg.

The Johnson Brothers, headquartered in Manti, will shear in Sanpete,

Sevier and Emery counties, removing fleece from around 25,000 to 30,000 sheep during a season that began in early March and will end about the middle of May.

The Johnsons' mobile unit includes a pickup equipped with a generator that supplies the electricity

that powers the clippers and a specially-designed trailer.

The sheep move up a long chute on one side of the trailer, enter through small doors, lose their fleece in about three minutes.

The Johnsons will shear 800 head a day at \$2 a head.

Domestic sheep in Ashley stir conflict

Environmentalists want rancher's flock moved out of bighorn country

By Darren Hawkins 7-27-89
Deseret News staff writer

An environmental group has targeted a group of domestic sheep in the Ashley National Forest as a danger to the rare Rocky Mountain bighorn and wants the flock removed. Now.

Domestic sheep carry diseases that could decimate the fragile population of 250 bighorns inhabiting the mountains of northeastern Utah if the two species come in contact.

Three bighorns were sighted June 2 in the area near Leidy Peak that the domestic sheep now occupy, and the Utah Wilderness Association has petitioned forest rangers to remove the flock — just in case the bighorns return.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, a state agency trying to re-establish bighorns in the Uintas, agrees the domestic flock endangers the bighorns. The division recommended last spring that Ashley National Forest rangers leave the Leidy

Peak area vacant, as it had been since late 1987.

Ashley rangers, however, granted a temporary permit in late June for a rancher to graze sheep there, and the sheep moved in July 5. Appeals to the regional ranger to remove the sheep were recently denied, so unless something unexpected occurs, the sheep will remain in place until the end of the grazing season Aug. 20. The Division of Wildlife Resources has not joined in the appeals.

Vernal District Ranger Carol Lyle, who originally denied the UWA request, said the bighorns are in little danger because 10 miles separate the Leidy Peak flock from the bighorns, and the animals are unlikely to travel that far.

She said other factors pose a greater threat to the bighorn herd. "There are domestic sheep in closer proximity to this herd on private land that we can't control," she said.

For the UWA, however, the point is that the bighorns were sighted near Leidy Peak less than two months ago and they may return. Besides, the

group says the land was not allocated to any rancher permanently, and it would have been easy to simply deny a temporary permit.

UWA conservation director Gary Macfarlane said even if only one or two bighorns are infected with diseases from the sheep, they could contaminate their own herd as well as other herds. In a worst-case scenario, the susceptible animals could be decimated by the disease.

"It does not give us a good feeling that Ashley National Forest cares about bighorn sheep," Macfarlane said.

Bighorns were once numerous in Utah mountains, but were wiped out by heavy domestic sheep grazing and by over-hunting. They were only recently reintroduced in the area.

Last January, two herds were brought into Utah. One of the herds, consisting of 23 bighorns, is located in an area known as Sheep Creek. It's from this herd that three bighorns sighted near Leidy Peak originated.

National sheep exposition opens at the Salt Palace

23 Aug 1989
Sheep producers from throughout the United States and Canada opened the 74th National Ram Sale, Sheep Exposition and National Wool Show Tuesday at the Salt Palace.

They brought with them more than 1,000 registered and range rams that were auctioned this afternoon. The auction will continue at 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, the last day of the exposition.

Among the breeds represented will be Columbia, Rambouillet, Suffolk, Targhee, Romney, Finn-sheep, Hampshire, Merino, Polypay, Rambouillet-Columbia cross, Suffolk-Hampshire cross and Rambouillet-Merino cross.

A sale of 20 working dogs and

pups from the Australian shepherd and border collie breeds, along with the sale of great Pyrenees guard dogs was also held this afternoon.

Sheep producers throughout the nation, sharply aware of the growing consumer interest in reducing the fat in their diets, are growing leaner lamb, spokesmen from the American Sheep Industry Association, sponsors of the exposition, said. The lean lamb project involves producers, feeders, packers and retailers.

To explain the importance of changing the carcass composition of lamb, the association is sponsoring lean lamb workshops throughout the exposition. They are free and open to the public.

'89 fair culminates prizewinning experience

Tooele woman won 1st trophy at age 6, then made it a habit

Editor's note: The jump portion of this story was inadvertently dropped from this story in the metro version in Sunday's *Deseret News*. It is run here in its entirety.

By Douglas D. Palmer
Deseret News staff writer

Children never stand so tall as when they're in the ring at the Utah State Fair.

Lisa Killpack, 19, is not a child any more, and this is her last year as a junior exhibitor in any fair, but she's looking back proudly on 13 years of fun, learning and challenges in 4-H and Future Farmers of America.

The young Tooele woman, who is a Utah State University student and a

